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## FIGHT WITH NAVAJOES.

### Officers Make a Brave Stand Against Odds of Two to One.

On November 6 a party of Navajo Indians assaulted William Montgomery, a cowboy in the employ of William Roden. They held him up at the point of their guns and otherwise abused him, accusing him of stealing four of their ponies. After maltreating him to their satisfaction they permitted him to go. He came to Flagstaff and obtained a warrant for the arrest of the Indians, and on Thursday in company with Deputy Sheriff Dan Hogan they went to make the arrest. At Roden's camp on Padre Canyon they were joined by William Roden and Walter Durham, who went along to show the officer where the Indians were camped. They arrived at the place about sun-down.

The camp was in the cedars below the rim and near the head of Padre canyon, about thirty-five miles southeast of Flagstaff. The party rode up and dismounted. The horses were what is known as cow-ponies and are trained to stand by simply throwing the bridle reins over their heads and letting them trail. The men left their Winchesters in the holsters attached to the saddles. Deputy Hogan approached the Indians to serve warrant when one of the band attempted to get a rifle and Hogan interfered to prevent him. A struggle for the possession of the gun then took place and a shot was fired by another Navajo at Hogan. Then ensued one of the most desperate

conflicts ever fought in the Southwest. Eight Indians constituted the opposing force, but the white men made a stand that will go down in the history of Coconino county as heroic.

At the first shot the horses stampeded, carrying the white men's Winchesters, and they were forced to make their fight with six-shooters and limited ammunition. At the first volley Montgomery pitched forward on his face dead, later investigation showing that a bullet had passed through his heart. The battle was brief and the officers routed the Indians, four, at the least, being dead and the others escaping in the brush. Montgomery was dead, Hogan wounded three times, in the back, arm and chest, all flesh wounds; Roden received a bullet through the groin. Durham escaped unhurt, though holes through his clothing testify to the fact that poor marksmanship on the part of the Navajoes alone was responsible. The fight was so fast that it would be impossible to say that any particular shot was responsible for any certain damage.

The retreat of the Indians occurred opportunely for the white men, for they had exhausted their ammunition, also the loads in two captured rifles. Hogan, Roden and Durham made their way to the railroad. Hogan became separated from his companions in the dark and was the first to reach Winona station, formerly known as Walnut, which he did at 10 o'clock at night, and telegraphed the result of the conflict. Roden and Durham took a more circuitous route and reached Angel